

IRO Certificate #4599

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

December 17, 2002

Re: IRO Case # M2-03-0361

Texas Worker's Compensation Commission:

___ has been certified as an independent review organization (IRO) and has been authorized to perform independent reviews of medical necessity for the Texas Worker's Compensation Commission (TWCC). Texas HB. 2600, Rule133.308 effective January 1, 2002, allows a claimant or provider who has received an adverse medical necessity determination from a carrier's internal process, to request an independent review by an IRO.

In accordance with the requirement that TWCC assign cases to certified IROs, TWCC assigned this case to ___ for an independent review. ___ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. For that purpose, ___ received relevant medical records, any documents obtained from parties in making the adverse determination, and any other documents and/or written information submitted in support of the appeal.

The case was reviewed by a physician who is Board Certified in Psychiatry. He or she has signed a certification statement attesting that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and any of the treating physicians or providers, or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the certification statement further attests that the review was performed without bias for or against the carrier, medical provider, or any other party to this case.

The determination of the ___ reviewer who reviewed this case, based on the medical records provided, is as follows:

History

The patient is a 59-year old male who fell and was injured in ___. He has had various orthopedic and chiropractic evaluations and has received chiropractic treatment. There seems to be some dispute regarding his orthopedic diagnoses. He has unresolved shoulder, back and ankle pain. A psychological assessment was done on 6/27/02, and a MMPI-2 was requested in order to make a diagnosis. There was reference made to medications for depression and psychotherapy, but no records were provided of psychiatric evaluation or treatment.

Requested Service

Psychometric testing

Decision

I agree with the carrier's decision to deny the requested testing.

Rationale

Based on the records available for review, psychometric testing, specifically MMPI-2, may be premature. The patient should first be evaluated by a psychiatrist. If the psychiatrist is unable to make a diagnosis and documents a reason why the results of an MMPI-2 would lead to certain treatment choices, then it might be indicated. Generally a competent psychiatrist does not need MMPI-2 results to make a diagnosis and recommend treatment. The psychological tests can be helpful if the diagnosis is unclear, and it might be helpful in determining if malingering is present.

This medical necessity decision by an Independent Review Organization is deemed to be a Commission decision and order.

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of the decision and has a right to request a hearing.

If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision, a request for a hearing must be in writing, and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **10** (ten) days of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5(c)).

If disputing other prospective medical necessity (preauthorization) decisions, a request for a hearing must be in writing, and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 148.3).

This decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.4(h) or 102.5(d)). A request for a hearing should be sent to:
Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Worker's Compensation Commission, P O Box 40669,
Austin, TX 78704-0012. **A copy of this decision should be attached to the request.**

The party appealing this decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute (Commission Rule 133.308(t)(2)).

Sincerely,
